

and prevention coordinator. In 2018, she was selected by the district judges of the Southern District of Indiana to serve as a magistrate judge, a position she holds to this day. In this role, Judge Pryor oversees a wide range of judicial proceedings in both civil and criminal matters.

She was unanimously rated “qualified” by the American Bar Association, and she has received blue slips from Senators Young and Braun, her two Republican home State Senators. She also received a bipartisan vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Judge Pryor has significant Federal experience and a proven track record of neutral decision making on the bench. I strongly support her nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

#### NOVEMBER JOBS REPORT

Mr. President, relating to the great news that we received Friday, the jobs report showed that our economic recovery under this President is continuing, with 263,000 jobs created during the month of November.

But more than strong numbers, what caught my attention is that there was very little response from the other side of the aisle.

Well, it is good news, and I want it to be part of the RECORD.

It is funny, it wasn't so long ago that our Republican colleagues couldn't wait for monthly jobs numbers to drop. And I can understand why: When the President took office, things were in rough shape. The pandemic was more persistent than any of us would have liked, and job growth started off slower than expected.

Back then, Republican lawmakers—like House minority leader KEVIN MCCARTHY—were the first to send out press releases slamming President Biden for the sluggish state of the economy—and downplay any economic progress.

But now, crickets. We haven't heard a word from KEVIN MCCARTHY about Friday's job numbers. Why have Republicans been so quiet? I will tell you why: The numbers are not on their side.

Since President Biden took office, the U.S. has added 10.5 million jobs—more than any administration in history at this point in a Presidency. And our unemployment rate remains near record lows. We have added more than 750,000 manufacturing jobs alone since the President took office—sectors boosted by legislation like the Chips and Science Act and the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

It is proof that the historic policies this Democratic majority has enacted over the past 2 years are working. In fact, next month, Medicare beneficiaries are going to start saving money thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act we passed this year. It is going to cap the cost of insulin at \$35 for Medicare beneficiaries starting January.

But we have got a lot more work to do, and that is why the American peo-

ple re-elected a Democratic majority in this Senate: to get things done. So let's keep the victories coming.

#### TRIBUTE TO JESSE WHITE

Mr. President, this is a statement I have been reluctant to make because it relates to a dear friend of mine and my fellow colleague from Illinois, Senator DUCKWORTH. I am sure what I am about to say, she agrees with completely because I have talked to her many times about the subject.

But in our State of Illinois, we are home to a select group of elected leaders who have done what many people consider to be politically impossible. It is a feat that only three elected officials have achieved in modern history: winning all 102 counties in the State of Illinois, from Cairo—as we pronounce it—all the way to Chicago.

Even more impressive, there is only one of these three leaders who has continually won by landslide margins in one election after another. His name is Jesse White.

He has served as secretary of state in Illinois for more than two decades; and, really, it is no wonder that he has won the hearts and minds of the voters across our State.

Secretary White is a rare leader: a legend and truly a humble man. He loves his work because he works for the people he loves, the people of Illinois.

Throughout his life, he has been a model of integrity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to public service. Later this month, unfortunately for us, he is going to be stepping aside from his recordbreaking sixth and final term as secretary of state.

On behalf of everyone in Illinois, I want to say thank you to one of the most beloved leaders in our State's history, my friend Jesse White.

There is a simple explanation for his unrivaled record of political success: He really cares for people. He has devoted his life to building a better State for our kids, and he radiates a warmth and sincerity to everybody he meets. And it is hard to keep up with him. Whenever Secretary White enters a room, he won't leave until he shakes every hand, whether it is a foreign dignitary or a person clearing the tables. Even cultural barriers don't hold him back. He points with pride to the fact that he can express a greeting in seven different languages, and I think I have heard all seven.

I will tell you, personally, he is one of the most loyal friends you can count on. When I ran for the Senate in 1996 as a downstate Congressman, nobody in Chicago knew who I was. Well, lo and behold, it was Secretary Jesse White who spent Sunday after Sunday introducing me to parishioners in Black churches throughout the city. And even though we were both on the ballot that year, he acted like I was the only candidate who needed a helping hand. It was an act of generosity that I am going to always remember.

Really, this is the most consistent thing throughout Secretary White's en-

tire career—service to others. In every role Secretary White has undertaken, he has done his part to build the “Beloved Community” envisioned by the man who mentored him in his early life, none other than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a student at Alabama State in the 1950s, Jesse White leaned on the wisdom of Dr. King, who was his minister at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. In fact, under Dr. King's leadership, Secretary White participated in the Montgomery bus boycott, one of the earliest demonstrations in our country of the power of nonviolent direct action. It was a formative experience that molded Jesse White into the inspiring leader he is today.

In the decades since, Secretary White has carried Dr. King's legacy forward by practicing the mantra the members of his staff know all too well: “Do something good for someone every day.”

His political career began with his election to the Illinois General Assembly in 1974. For 16 years, he brought together an eclectic group of communities in Chicago from what he called the Gold Coast to the Soul Coast. Whether his constituents lived along Lake Shore Drive or in the Cabrini-Green Homes housing project, they all knew Jesse White was on their side.

In 1992, he moved up to be Cook County Recorder of Deeds. It is a role in which his reputation as a miracle worker began to take shape. Secretary White put painstaking efforts into modernizing the office. In the words of his former chief of staff, and one of my lead employees, Margaret Houlihan, “It was like a social service agency. Everyone would line up outside the office to wait and see” if Jesse could help them in any way, “even when it had nothing to do with his role as Recorder of Deeds.”

Jesse White would listen and do everything he could to find housing, find a job for someone, help a young child who was in trouble.

Jesse White was elected our secretary of state in 1998—the first Black Illinoisan to occupy the office. Today, he remains the longest serving secretary of state. He transformed an office that had been marred by corruption and greed into an efficient and effective agency.

When he was first elected, he declared that he would “strive to be the best Secretary of State” that we had ever seen. Safe to say, he lived up to that aspiration.

He cleaned the office up, first, by banning the solicitation of campaign contributions by employees. He has made our streets safer by imposing tougher rules and regulations for drivers as well as implementing a comprehensive teen driving program that has saved lives.

His integrity has shined every step of the way, and he has kept the promise he made when he first ran in 1998; that the secretary of state's office would be his “last stop in the political arena.”